



# BULLETIN

New York State Society for Medical Research, Inc.

VOL. 13, No. 1

MARCH, 1965

## HISTORY OF 1952 DOG HERO

TIME: 2:00 P.M. — WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1965

PLACE: The New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63 Street, N. Y.

EVENT: The New York State Society for Medical Research will honor Mr. & Mrs. John Becker of Staten Island, N. Y. by the presentation of a Citation and a Plaque which in a sense express the appreciation of cardiac patients and their families all over the nation for the police-type dog JUMBO — the PIONEER PATIENT in open heart surgery.



Dr. Richard W. Egan, President of The New York State Society for Medical Research, presenting the Citation to Mr. & Mrs. John Becker of Staten Island.

### WHY THE BECKERS?

They cherished and raised for 12 years the dog that in 1952 proved that the heart-lung machine would make open heart surgery possible. The National Society for Medical Research honored JUMBO at that time by selecting her Research Dog Heroine of the Year. In the years since this "first", the technique of open heart surgery utilizing the heart-lung machine has gone far to

correct various malformations of the heart. Many people alive today owe their happy and useful lives to JUMBO and the team of research scientists and surgeons headed by Dr. Clarence Dennis of the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn.

JUMBO, renamed LADY by the Beckers, has further proved that a normal life and life span is possible following open heart surgery, by living as an active member of the Becker household for the succeeding 12 years.

In addition to raising LADY and their own three children the Beckers have served as foster parents to more than seventy-five (75) children over the past 25 years.

If the restrictive legislation advocated by the Humane Society of the United States, the National Catholic Society for Animal Welfare, the Animal Welfare Institute, Friends of Animals, Ahinsa, Society for Animal Protective Legislation, etc. had been the law, neither the perfection of the life-saving technique memorialized today, nor the long and happy life of JUMBO-LADY would have been permitted.

## PRESIDENT GREETES GUESTS

Dr. Egan welcomed Mr. & Mrs. Becker and their family and the guests who had assembled to pay their respects. He read a telegram from Senator Jacob K. Javits: "DEEPLY REGRET THAT URGENT SENATE VOTE AND OTHER IMPORTANT SENATE BUSINESS PREVENTS ME FROM JOINING YOU TODAY AT YOUR CEREMONY HONORING MR. AND MRS. JOHN BECKER OF STATEN ISLAND. AS YOU KNOW, IN MY TELEGRAM OF FEBRUARY SECOND, I HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EXIGENCIES OF SENATE BUSINESS MIGHT PREVENT MY PARTICIPATION IN YOUR PROGRAM. PLEASE EXTEND MY BEST WISHES AND RESPECTS TO MR. AND MRS. BECKER, TO THE BRILLIANT TEAM OF RESEARCH SCIENTISTS AND SURGEONS AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, HEADED BY DR. CLARENCE DENNIS, AND TO JUMBO, THE HEROIC PIONEER IN ADVANCING OPEN HEART SURGERY. JACOB K. JAVITS, U. S. SENATOR."

Dr. Egan told of the necessity for the availability of animals for research that could perfect treatments for the ills of mankind. He stressed that today's gathering pointed up the importance of pioneer research, which in this case had resulted in the first successful use of the heart-lung machine in New York State.

## DR. DENNIS PRESENTS COLLAR

Dr. Egan then introduced Dr. Clarence Dennis of Downstate Medical Center, who presented a memorial collar with silver charm inscribed to LADY. Dr. Dennis said, in part:

Careful review appears firmly to have established that in the last thirty years, more new information has been added to our fund of knowledge in health and medicine than in all prior recorded history. This has come about through the interaction of several factors . . .

These considerations have a very direct bearing upon our purpose here today. The dog known to us in our laboratory as "JUMBO" was one of the first animals to undergo a prolonged open-heart operation. Jumbo was recognized 13 years ago by the National Society for Medical Research as the Dog Research Hero of the Year because she was a fundamental contributor in a newly opening field. Dogs such as JUMBO made it possible for the team at the Downstate Medical Center to proceed to be the first in the State of New York to perform a successful open heart operation. This occurred in the early summer of 1955.

The studies performed in our laboratories also made it possible to undertake a program of provision of relief for patients suffering from massive myocardial infarction with

(Continued)



Dumbo receives silver-mounted collar from Dr. Charles Fries in laboratory ceremonies held by the National Society of Medical Research in Sept. 1952.

# 'Lady' Gave Her Heart To Save Many Others

By WILLIAM RICE

All that remains of Lady—physically—lies under a small cross in the rear yard of Mr. and Mrs. John Becker of 20 Renfrew Place, Port Richmond. But her memory lives on.

## SUNDAY NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER®

New York, N.Y. 10017, Sunday, February 21, 1965

In 1952, for a very important hour, Lady, then a 6-month-old mongrel, gave up her heart and lungs so that humans could live.

She became the first dog to survive after these organs were by-passed and her blood circulation maintained by a machine.

### Surgery Pioneered

The operation was a forerunner of heart-lung surgery now used to repair heart defects in humans.

This won her that year's award for "Heroic Service to Mankind" from the National Society for Medical Research.

Now, more than 12 years later, Lady has won an award for her human "parents." Mr. and Mrs. Becker will receive a citation and plaque at 2 P.M. Wednesday at the New York Academy of Sciences, 2 E. 63d St., Manhattan.

The award is for their "devotion to Lady." More important, a society spokesman said, it points up the operation's success. After surviving the historic surgery, Lady was able to live a full and happy life before succumbing last May 8.

### An Active Life

And Lady's life was an active one. She was adopted after the operation by the Beckers, a family with big hearts and lots of children.

During their 27 years of marriage, the Beckers have found time to care for their own three youngsters and, at various times, a total of 75 foster children.

Their entry into foster parenthood began soon after their wedding, Mrs. Becker remembered. They took in a little boy after the child's family had broken up.

From then on, the Beckers' seven-room house echoed the sounds of children. Theirs—Elizabeth, John Jr. and Edward—and those of people who needed help.

### Needed a Home

This is how Lady joined the family. Mrs. Becker heard of the dog over the radio. The animal—then called Jumbo—had been kept as a mascot at Brooklyn's State University College of Medicine. But she was part shepherd and had become too big. A new home was needed, and the Beckers volunteered.

They have a new Lady now, a German shepherd given them by a breeder who heard of the first Lady's death. But the memory of that playful big brown and black mutt with the surgical scar lives on in the beat of every heart saved by the operation she pioneered.

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shock, popularly known as serious heart attacks. The first such patient was seen by the study group at Kings County Hospital just 8 years ago . . . a heart-lung machine was used to give some measure of rest to his heart. The first patient to be salvaged anywhere in the world from an otherwise fatal heart attack is as much a human research hero as JUMBO-LADY was a Dog Research Hero. Our human hero, who is proving just as able to live out his full, normal life expectancy as JUMBO-LADY was, has been kind enough to join us in today's recognition. If it had not been for dogs such as JUMBO-LADY, Mr. Jack Zwick could not have been here.

### FIRST HUMAN PATIENT

I am happy to introduce Mr. Zwick to you. Mr. Zwick . . . is not only active, but continues to run his Army and Navy Surplus Store in Brooklyn. He drove me to this reception. He stands here as an unforgettable testimonial to the reward in terms of human life and happiness which can derive from the proper utilization of experimental animals.

The part which the Becker family has contributed to our knowledge must directly be recognized also. Many open-heart operations have been done across the country, but there is little opportunity for long-term observation afterwards. Jumbo-Lady was a dog who was provided with a home in which she could live until old age took its toll. There has naturally been some curiosity in the medical profession about the very long-term results of some of the cardiac surgery which has become possible in the last decade but insofar as I am aware, the period of postoperative observation which JUMBO-LADY's long life provided is unique, both for dogs and for men. This represents therefore, a very real confirmation of our assumption that the long-term outlook after open-heart operations may be fully as gratifying as the immediate salvage of human life.

In behalf of the New York State Society for Medical Research, I am highly honored to present this memorial collar to the Becker family in recognition of the contribution which that family has made to scientific progress and to the relief of human suffering.

### NATIONAL SOCIETY PRESENTS PLAQUE

On behalf of the National Society for Medical Research, Mr. Ralph A. Rohweder presented silver plaque, stressing that only twelve years ago no one on earth had operated successfully within the living heart. He told of a survey made about two years ago which showed that more than 100 open heart operations were occurring in the United States on an average day. A high fraction of all these patients have conditions so serious that they would not live without this surgery.

### PRES. MANISCALCO DISCUSSES RESEARCH

Dr. Egan next introduced the Honorable Albert V. Maniscalco, President of the Borough of Richmond, home of the Beckers. "The people of Staten Island are the friendliest, most hospitable, most cordial people I know. So when a Staten Islander outdoes his neighbors in a feat of generosity and warmth, he is held in the highest esteem by the rest of the community. Today we are honoring two such residents of the Borough of Richmond—Mr. & Mrs. John Becker. The act for which they are being honored today is but a single effort of many on their part to make this a warmer more welcome and happier world for anyone of God's beings.

It is a long established premise that loving kindness is a marvelous medical therapy. In the instant case of JUMBO,

we have found that the care and affection which the recuperating dog received began with the changing of her quite unfeminine name to the more gentle "LADY." As I realize it now, Lady lived much more than the normal dog's life in a home where many children kept her on the move all of the time.

"I thought you might be interested in a local story in which LADY aided further in heart surgery. In the early part of her recuperation, the local Animal Shelter on Staten Island kept a careful surveillance on her well being. An Inspector would call at intervals to look after her welfare. He came to Mrs. Becker one day and announced that this would probably be his last call, for he was entering the hospital for heart surgery. Mrs. Becker was interested and asked the nature of the pending operation. It was similar to that which LADY had pioneered. Mrs. Becker calmed the young fellow, and explained Lady's role. She exhibited the animal, her scars, and told of her recovery. The Inspector left, went through the necessary surgery, and became a frequent visitor at the Becker home . . . comparing operations, no doubt.

"All Staten Island is proud of the Beckers. They have added another incident to Staten Island's history of medical research and discovery. For it was in Staten Island that the now United States Public Health Service had its humble beginnings. And it was on Staten Island, that much of the successful research on the dreaded tuberculosis was performed at Sea View Hospital and it is where we now look forward to the construction of the laboratory for basic medical research. We place the recovery of LADY in our medical Annals.

"For their devotion to JUMBO-LADY, for the care they gave which permitted the dog to enjoy a long and normally active life, for their dedication to their community, and to the children of that community, the people of the Borough of Richmond add their warmest congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Becker on this occasion honoring them. I add to those official plaudits my own personal acknowledgement of a job superbly done. Thank you."

### PASTOR MOSER COMMENDS

All present were impressed by the words of the Reverend Harold J. Moser, pastor of Christ Methodist Church of Staten Island, who quoted from Scriptures to express the good that comes from the service of animals to mankind. He congratulated his parishioners and told the assembly that the Beckers were so self-effacing that he had to come to New York to learn of their outstanding contribution to medical knowledge.

### CITATION PRESENTED

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation by Dr. Egan of the Society's award to the Beckers—an illuminated, engrossed parchment Citation, laminated to walnut. In accepting, Mr. Becker said that this would be treasured and hang in a place of honor in their home. He amused the audience with his wry smile as he told of his exercise chore with LADY, since she was too strong and frisky for the children.

### RADIO INTERVIEW

An interview was recorded and broadcast by WCBS that evening on the EVENTS OF THE DAY program.

An autographed copy of THE SEMI-ARTIFICIAL MAN, gift of the author Harold M. Schmeck, Jr., Science Editor of the New York TIMES, was presented to the Beckers.

**S. 1087**  
**A BILL**  
 To authorize the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service to establish minimum standards for the humane care and treatment of animals used in research.  
 By Mrs. NEUBERGER, Mr. MAGNUSON, Mr. MORSE  
 FEBRUARY 10, 1965  
 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare

**H. R. 3036**  
**A BILL**  
 To provide for humane treatment of animals used in experiment and research by recipients of grants from the United States, and by agencies and instrumentalities of the United States, and for other purposes.  
 By Mr. PEPPER  
 JANUARY 18, 1965  
 Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Dr. Oscar Sussman, chief of the Bureau of Veterinary Health of New Jersey is quoted in the Sunday Star-Ledger of Newark, N. J. as saying: "If unclaimed animals are uselessly put to death, then other animals must be bred for

89TH CONGRESS  
 1ST SESSION  
**S. 1071**  
**A BILL**  
 To provide for the humane treatment of vertebrate animals used in experiments and tests by recipients of grants from the United States and by agencies and instrumentalities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.  
 By Mr. CLARK, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. BYRD of Virginia, Mr. MUSKIE, and Mr. YOUNG of Ohio  
 FEBRUARY 9, 1965  
 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Public Welfare

**H. R. 5647**  
**A BILL**  
 To provide for the humane treatment of vertebrate animals used in experiments and tests by recipients of grants from the United States and by agencies and instrumentalities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.  
 By Mr. CLEVELAND  
**H. R. 5191**  
**A BILL**  
 To provide for a program to advance the humane care, comfort, and welfare of laboratory animals used in scientific study.  
 By Mr. ROYBAL

## STATE OF NEW YORK

Intro. S. 607 (Prefiled) Intro. A. 1317  
 Print. S. 607 January 6, 1965 Print. A. 1317  
 IN SENATE—Introduced by Mr. MOSBERG—read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Public Health  
 IN ASSEMBLY—Introduced by Mr. FOX—read once and referred to the Committee on Health

research and eventually sacrificed. This means the death of two animals instead of one. Persons who dislike the idea of any animal being destroyed ought not to characterize as humane this policy of the destruction of two animals instead of one."

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**New York State Society for Medical Research, Inc.**  
**TWO EAST 63rd STREET • NEW YORK • 10021**  
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Dr. Clarence Dennis  
 State Univ. Medical College  
 451 Clarkson Ave.  
 Brooklyn, N.Y.



Guests of Honor and Participants in the Ceremonies, from left to right: Dr. Clarence Dennis, State University of N. Y. Downstate Medical Center; Mr. John Becker; Richard W. Egan, M.D., President, New York State Society for Medical Research; Mrs. John Becker; Hon. Albert V. Maniscalco, President, Borough of Queens; Mr. Jack Zwick, first human patient at Kings County Hospital to be treated using the heart-lung machine in 1955; Reverend Harold J. Moser, Pastor, Christ Methodist Church, Staten Island, N. Y.

### Excerpts from letters from Mrs. Becker . . .

"Just a few words to thank you for all you have done. We had a wonderful time—we will always remember February 24, 1965—you have made it a wonderful thing in our lives. We will always treasure the Citation and plaque. Our many friends have enjoyed reading about Lady. Please thank Dr. Egan for us.

"A woman called me Wednesday night . . . read about the dog . . . it gave her a big lift as her little boy 5 years old went under surgery Wednesday afternoon in Bellevue Hospital, N. Y. for open heart. She said many more that read it will have courage to go through it . . ."

During the past year several TV and radio appearances on both panel and interview programs were made by members of the Society in the interests of correcting the misstatements made by the advocates of restrictive or punitive legislation, and to acquaint the general public with the advances made by medical science, in which the use of laboratory animals played a vital part.

At the time of going to press, five bills have been introduced into the Congress, and two into the state legislature. Your legislative committee is presently studying these bills and will present analyses in the near future.

The Humane Society of the United States in its campaign to hamstring medical research has broadened its base by opening an office in New York City under the management of Cleveland Amory, a member of its Board of Directors. A drive for funds and members is now under way through press, radio and TV appearances.

A major project is to force through the N. Y. State legislature, the highly restrictive and punitive Mosberg-Fox bills which are based on the old Moulder and Randall bills.

Members are urged to write the Chairmen of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Public Health, the Hon. Seymour R. Thaler and the Hon. Michael G. Rice, respectively, at the Capitol, Albany, N. Y. expressing disapproval of Senate 607 and Assembly 1317 bills. It is also suggested that the members of the scientific community write these committees asking to be notified if hearings are scheduled and requesting time to give testimony. Remember, the foes of research are exhorting their letter-writing coterie to carry on massive, repetitive activity.

Reduction of the mongrel animal population, thereby eliminating the source of supply of strays for medical research, is the prime objective of Senate intro. 1765 and Assembly intro. 3054. Write the NEW YORK CITY COMMITTEE of both houses of the legislature at Albany, opposing the forced "spaying of female animals."

The New York Tuberculosis and Health Association has sponsored a bill in the New York State Legislature to remove the \$5 daily maximum fee for patient care. The bills are Senate Intro. 1659 and Assembly Intro. 3058. Interested members should make their views known to the Committee Chairmen listed above.

## FEDERAL BILLS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO MEMBERS

S: 576 cancellation of portion of debt for physicians and dentists who have received loans.

S: 595 authorize grants to improve quality of schools of medicine, dentistry and osteopathy.

S: 596 to assist in combating heart disease, cancer and stroke and other major diseases.

S: 597 grants for adequate medical library services.

H.R. 272 establishment of a United States Armed Services Medical School.

H.R. 490 grants for construction of veterinary medical facilities, etc.

H.R. 2984 construction of health research facilities.

H.R. 2985 assistance for professional and technical personnel for community mental health centers.

H.R. 2987 mortgage insurance & loans for facilities for group practice of medicine.

H.R. 3140 same as Senate 597.

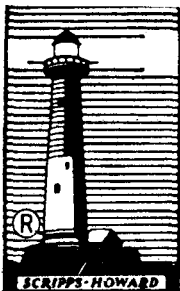
H.R. 3141 same as Senate 595.

For copies of Senate bills write: Clerk, Com. on Labor & Public Welfare, Senate Office Building.

For copy of H.R. 272 write: Clerk, Com. on Armed Services, House Office Building.

For copies of other House bills, write: Clerk, Com. on Interstate & Foreign Commerce, House Office Bldg.

All addresses are Washington 25, D. C.



# New York World-Telegram

The Sun

A SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPER

RICHARD D. PETERS, Editor

MATT MEYER, Business Manager

LEE B. WOOD, President

NEW YORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1965

## Dogged S.I. Couple Adds Their Bit for the Homeless

By CAROL TAYLOR

Of the World-Telegram Staff

Helen and John Becker live in a big, rambling country-style house at Port Richmond, S.I., a place that is perfect for children and dogs.

And, because they love both children and dogs, the Beckers have opened their home to scores of waifs and pets.

### Surgery Pioneer

Because of their devotion to one homeless dog, Jumbo-Lady, they will be given a special citation and plaque by the New York State Society

for Medical Research Wednesday at the New York Academy of Sciences, 2 E. 63rd St.

Jumbo-Lady was a pioneer patient in open heart surgery. She was acclaimed the National Research Heroine Dog of 1952 because she survived a perfusion experiment with the heart-lung machine at the Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. She died last year, at the age of 14.

Mrs. Becker, mother of three and foster mother to more than 75 other children

over the years, recalled today how Jumbo, renamed Lady, came to live with the family.

One morning in the spring of 1953 she heard a radio appeal for a home for a 2-year-old dog "who served mankind."

"We love dogs. We even take in strays," Mrs. Becker said. "So I called right up and offered a home.

### Home Is Suitable

"Then this nurse from the hospital came to see us. She had been all around looking at possible places. She thought

the dog was well-suited here.

"After the surgery, they had kept the dog at the hospital as a pet. Then they felt sorry for the dog because there was no room for it to run around."

Jumbo-Lady felt right at home in the country from the first. She romped with the other Becker dogs in the big, fenced-in yard.

### Inspector Worried

"She loved children. She was very lively," continued Mrs. Becker. "We kept her 12 years and she died of old age."

She told how an inspector for the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals came to the house once.

"He himself had to have that open heart surgery. He was scared. I said, 'You'll come through all right.'

"And I showed him the scar on Lady, running down the neck and chest all the way. The inspector went through with the operation, and he is fine."

The Beckers children are grown now. He is semi-retired and they have given up taking in foster babies.

"But we have dogs. And we have a honey bear. And birds, and cats, and two wild squirrels."

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